



One Hundred First Legislature - Second Session - 2010  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 844**

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**Chairperson:** Brad Ashford  
**Committee:** Judiciary  
**Date of Hearing:** January 21, 2010

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 844 eliminates the requirement that the Law Enforcement Training Center charges tuition for mandated training beginning January 1, 2011.

This requirement was part of legislation that passed in 2000 and attempted to establish the Training Center as a tuition-based academy. It is now clear that Nebraska does not have the population base to implement a tuition-based approach to training. One of the goals of the 2000 legislation was to establish a pool of certified officers who had graduated from the Training Center and could be hired by Nebraska law enforcement agencies. This pool never materialized despite efforts to recruit new students to the Center.

More than half of Nebraska law enforcement agencies are five or fewer officers. These agencies currently pay up to \$2,000 in fees and costs when they hire a non-certified officer and send him or her to the Training Center for basic training. The additional tuition requirement would be \$4,000 per person. Most small to medium-sized agencies would not have the ability to pay additional tuition charges, and local governments in Nebraska could see these new charges as a shift from a state-funded expense to a local property tax expense.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Scott Lautenbaugh**